COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD)

P.O. Box 274
Springwood QLD 4127

****

*** NEWSLETTER ***

****

1983 Number 2

WIN A COVER FOR YOUR VIC OR 64

How ? Covercare have donated a cover to the club and the committee is awarding it as a prize to the best VIC-20 program submitted. The program must be original and not copied from a magazine or pirated from commercial software. All programs submitted will be placed in the group's Public Domain Software Library at the conclusion of the competition. Your program must be in the secretary's hands by 5 p.m. 24 May 1983. Specially note the address is P.O. 274, Springwood QLD 4127.

LEARNING BASIC

Greg Perry will be conducting a learning basic course which will start in mid-May. The cost of the course will be $50. For more information contact Greg on (07) 38 3295 a.h. B.Y.O.C.

DISCOUNTS

This User's Group has already solicited discounts and been able to buy the CBM-64 at a very good figure, because the Group ordered six. The tape machine was also a good buy. At the moment the Group has a number of tapes at $1 each to members, but you must be quick as only 100 are available at this price.

Other discounts we have negotiated are :-

* Complete Computer Centre 10% off
* A club discount from Sydney on the 64 15% (see Terry Steer)

Mitsui Computer Systems have advised us that they are prepared to offer members a special on their range of printers and terminal products. As an example their Diablo 620 printers, normally $ 2394 would be available to members at $ 1914 including tax.

Covercare, P.O. Box 719, Chatswood N.S.W. 2067, advises that a VIC-20 / CBM-64 cover is available at the discount price of $15 including postage. The covers are made of an anti-static cotton backed vinyl, which is hard wearing and affords total protection. The discount represents a 25% saving.

POST OFFICE BOX

The postal address is now as on the first page. Please make sure your correspondence reaches us by sending it to the correct address.

EDITORIAL

The final sentence of the editiorial of 1983 Newsletter No 1, i.e. "The continuance of this newsletter depends on you." Well, I am one of the You's, I volunteered to relieve the poor overworked and highly underpaid Secretary / cum Treasurer cum ex editor cum Johnny runabout cum whatever. So John Egan, we say thankyou for giving the newsletter a start. Me, I'm Laurie Woods,ex Tasmainian Government Railways, then Transport Commision, ex RAAF, 2nd World War, Officier navigator/bomb aimer, awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, ex motel industry N.S.W., ex N.S.W. builder, ex Alderman of Ballina Council N.S.W. and N.S.W. Justice of the Peace and now pensioned off, and now have become a computer beginner.

I know nothing about computers, so perhaps if you would like to ask me all those awkward questions , I will have to find the answer from one of the experts. It will help me to learn what computers are about.

The April meeting was my first at the Computer Group. The usual attendance is about 25, but for some reason just over 100 turned up. The User's Group suddenly becomes either an active group, where members will be encouraged to delve deeper into the uses of the computer, whatever model they may be interested in, or a group which meets for the sake of having a meeting.

One problem, as I see it, is that many persons at the meeting do not have much experience in computers, and therefore, I feel, the committee of management should endevour to have guest speakers on computer operating, and word processing, rather than salesmen, who are attempting to pedal their wares. In this way members who are having problems, could duplicate the problems at the meeting, and have an experienced computer operator show the way out of the problem.

None of us is perfect,and from the experience I have had , the computer soon has me chewing my fingernails and checking back to see what has been done incorrectly, and let's face it, once you have bought your computer, you are no longer of much interest to the distributor, so of necessity you look for a little help and knowledge, maybe from your User's Group.

I also see the group as being very benificial in having someone of experience delegated to help anyone in formulating their computer setup to gain the greatest economical benefit; also in advising of the most economical buying of any items deemed necessary for the person's greatest usage. The way to do this is to formulate a plan of operation, set up a schedule of operation hang it up on the wall, and then stick to it.
I usually hate writing and have not much to say, but would rather read and listen, however, methinks I have been mislead on how much work an editor has. Anyway, I'm prepared to keep trying in between jottings I shall try to learn how to operate my computer, at present stabled in the doghouse. So I'm hoping you will let me know any information, tips or whatever, because it may make my job a little easier.

Laurie Woods
Editor

LIBRARY
Country members are reminded that they may borrow for 30 days on condition they pay return postage. The PET/CBM Personal Computer Guide and CBM Professional Computer Guide have now been added to the list.

COMPUTE!

This excellent American magazine has been reduced to $US38, by Airmail and is approximately two months before the Australian release date. All you need to do is send your subscription to :-

Compute!
P.O. Box 5406
Greensboro N.C. 27403
U.S.A.

You can obtain an international bankers draft through your local bank. The fee varies from bank to bank but is in the region of $A 4 to 5.

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY

If you post a disk, suitably packaged in corrugated cardboard and labelled "MAGNETIC MATERIALS - DO NOT EXPOSE TO MAGNETIC FIELDS" the User's Group will copy the Public Domain material and return it to you. Please enclose return postage.

SOFTWARE

If we all make a list of all the non-club software we own we can save eachother unnecessary hassles finding helpful and/or useful programs. There is nothing more frustrating than spending $200 on a program which refuses to run properly. Those of you who are hiding all those useful programs under your beds, please at least give us a listing of the titles and a brief comment on what the programs do, or don't do and maybe we can iron out the bugs for you or at least suggest what the problem may be.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commodore Computer User's Group (Qld) will be the first Tuesday, 03 May 1983, when we shall have the pleasure of a guest speaker, Murray Tymms, who deals in computer supplies, excepting disks.

SOFTWARE - WORLD WIDE

This User's Group is going to contact any User's Group it can find in the world in order to bring you any Public Domain Software available by interchange. As an example any German software could be translated by one of our members.

ANY HINTS ?

VIC-20 or CBM-64 hints would be apreciated. No replies have been received from anyone yet. I sure need a hell of a lot of information to get started. Can you help?

ADVICE ON COMPUTERS

Ron Collett brought, to the March meeting, his CBM 3016, which he has converted from 40 column to an 80 machine. The conversion kit was imported from U.S.A.

Phil Truscott of 9 Stirling St, Tullah, Tasmainia, writes to tell up he has finally bought himself a floppy, and that it is so much faster he doesn't know why he didn't earlier. Also he has taken a course on Advanced Computer Studies with four others who are beginners, and so Phil is helping them and the teacher. (Good on you Phil, you learn so much better when you help others.) Phil is having trouble with Dr Watson's Assembly Language for beginners, especially the first one. (Has anyone had a similar experience or has got any advice for Phil ?) Phil recommends Compute!

Phil, your comment on some Australian magazines, I'm afraid is something we get dished up not only in the computer field, but also in many other fields. Unfortunately these so called specialists or snobs, as you named them are thin in knowledge but thick in mouth and usually with a hide thicker than a Tasmanian Devil, don't let them worry you, Phil! Just don't buy their rubbish, and tell them why.

Laurie.

ADVERTISING

The committee has decided to accept paid advertising in this newsletter at the rate of 50c for the first line of 60 characters and 20c a line thereafter.

WANTED TO SELL

VIC-20, disk drive, printer, cassette, Arfon motherboard, super expander cartridge, colour monitor, games cassettes and Dr Watson's Assembly Language. M.B. Winn P.O. Box 151 Annerley 4103.